AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. **(Currently Amended)** A method of sustained-delivery of an active drug to a posterior part of an eye of a mammal to treat ~~or prevent~~ a disease or condition affecting said mammal, wherein said disease or condition can be treated ~~or prevented~~ by the action of said active drug upon said posterior part of the eye, comprising administering an effective amount of an ester prodrug of the active drug subconjunctivally or periocularly, and wherein the active drug is more than about 10 times as active as the prodrug.

2. **(Original)** The method of claim 1 wherein the active drug or the prodrug is cataractogenic.

3. **(Original)** The method of claim 1 wherein the active drug is a carboxylic acid or carboxylic acid salt.

4. **(Original)** The method of claim 1 wherein the active drug is selected from the group consisting of retinoids, prostaglandins, alpha-2-adrenergic agonists, beta adrenoreceptor antagonists, dopaminergic agonists, cholenergic agonists, tyrosine kinase inhibitors, antiinflammatories, corticosteroids, NMDA antagonists, anti-cancer drugs and antihistamines.

5. **(Original)** The method of claim 1 wherein the active drug is an alcohol.

6. **(Original)** The method of claim 1 wherein the active drug is a retinoid.

7. **(Original)** The method of claim 1 wherein the active drug is tazarotenic acid.

8. **(Original)** The method of claim 1 wherein the prodrug is tazarotene.

9. **(Original)** The method of claim 1 wherein the prodrug is an ester of a phosphorous or sulfer-based acid.

10. **(Original)** The method of claim 1 wherein the prodrug is contained in a polymeric microparticle system designed to enhance the sustained-delivery of said active drug.

11. **(Original)** The method of claim 10 wherein said polymeric microparticle system is a poly(lactide-co-glycolide) microsphere suspension.

12. **(Original)** The method of claim 1 wherein said posterior part of the eye comprises the uveal tract, vitreous, retina, choroids, optic nerve, or retinal pigmented epithelium.

13. **(Original)** The method of claim 1 wherein said disease or condition is retinitis pigmentosa, proliferative vitreal retinopathy, age-related macular degeneration, diabetic retinopathy, diabetic macular edema, retinal detachment, retinal tear, uveitus, or cytomegalovirus retinitis.

14. **(Original)** The method of claim 1 wherein the prodrug is administered via injection.

15. **(Original)** The method of claim 1 wherein administration of the prodrug is subconjunctival, schleral, supra-choroidal, sub-tenon, retrobulbar, or peribulbar.

16. **(Original)** The method of claim 1 wherein administration of the prodrug is subconjunctival.

17. **(Currently Amended)** A method of treating ~~or preventing~~ a disease or condition, wherein treatment ~~or prevention~~ of said disease or condition is achieved by the action of an active drug on a posterior part of an eye of an effected mammal, comprising administering an effective amount of a carboxylic acid ester prodrug of the active drug

subconjunctivally or periocularly via injection, wherein the prodrug is contained in a polymeric microparticle system designed to enhance the sustained-delivery of said active drug, and wherein the active drug is more than about 10 times as active as the prodrug, and wherein the active drug is not a platelet activating factor antagonist.

18. **(Withdrawn)** A pharmaceutical product comprising

i) a composition containing an effective concentration of an ester prodrug of an active drug, wherein the action of said active drug on a posterior part of an eye of a mammal is effective in treating or preventing a disease or condition affecting said posterior part of the eye, and wherein the active drug is more than about 10 times as active as the prodrug; and

ii) a suitable packaging material which comprises instructions that the product is to be used to treat said disease or condition by injecting said product subconjunctivally or periocularly, wherein said instructions do not indicate that the product is to be administered by intravitreal or intraocular injection or wherein said instructions indicate or suggest a preference for subconjunctival or periocular injection over intravitreal or intraocular injection.

19. **(Original)** The method of claim 1 wherein the active drug is not a platelet activating factor antagonist.

20. **(Withdrawn)** The pharmaceutical product of claim 18 wherein the active drug is not a platelet activating factor antagonist.